

~~rewrite~~
~~recite~~
~~rewrote~~
~~re-write~~
~~re-right~~
REWRITE
SERMON SERIES 
MEDINA
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST. CONGREGATIONAL

GIFTS



September 6, 2020 10:30 a.m.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

217 E. Liberty St. Medina, Ohio 44256 330-725-4559

www.uccmedina.org



*****Assisted Listening Devices Available – Please Ask Your Usher*****

LIVE STREAMING OF THE SANCTUARY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE AT UCCMEDINA.ORG

“WELCOMING, LOVING, SERVING, WHERE GOD HAS NO LIMITS”

**Those who are able please stand*

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE “Aria” – Charles Callahan

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

VISIONING PRAYER

by Sharon Alberson

God, help us to be welcoming. God, help us to be loving.

God, help us to see that serving you can lead us to

A place full of grace with no limits where we can be free...

To open our hands, welcoming. To open our hearts, loving.

To be more than church on Sunday, to live in the light from above;

To celebrate in service and love.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God of Grace,

People: You have given us minds to know you,

Leader: Hearts to love you,

People: And voices to sing your praise.

Leader: Fill us with your Holy Spirit,

People: That we may celebrate your glory and worship you in spirit and truth;

Leader: Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

***COMMUNITY PRAYER** (by Gerhard Frost, *Seasons of a Lifetime*, page 118.)

Thank you, Lord,
For always answering prayer,
But not indulging my every petty, private give me.
Thank you for winnowing and refining,
Vetoing and delaying,
Refusing and revising.

Thank you for being God and never less,
For freeing me for wide horizons,
For protecting me from my limited vision and wayward will.

Thank you for foiling my every effort
To unseat you,
And make myself ruler.
Thank you for keeping it safe
For me to pray. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC "Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel?" – Spiritual

Pete Metzloff, voice

SCRIPTURE Luke 17:11-19

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Stacie Yates

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

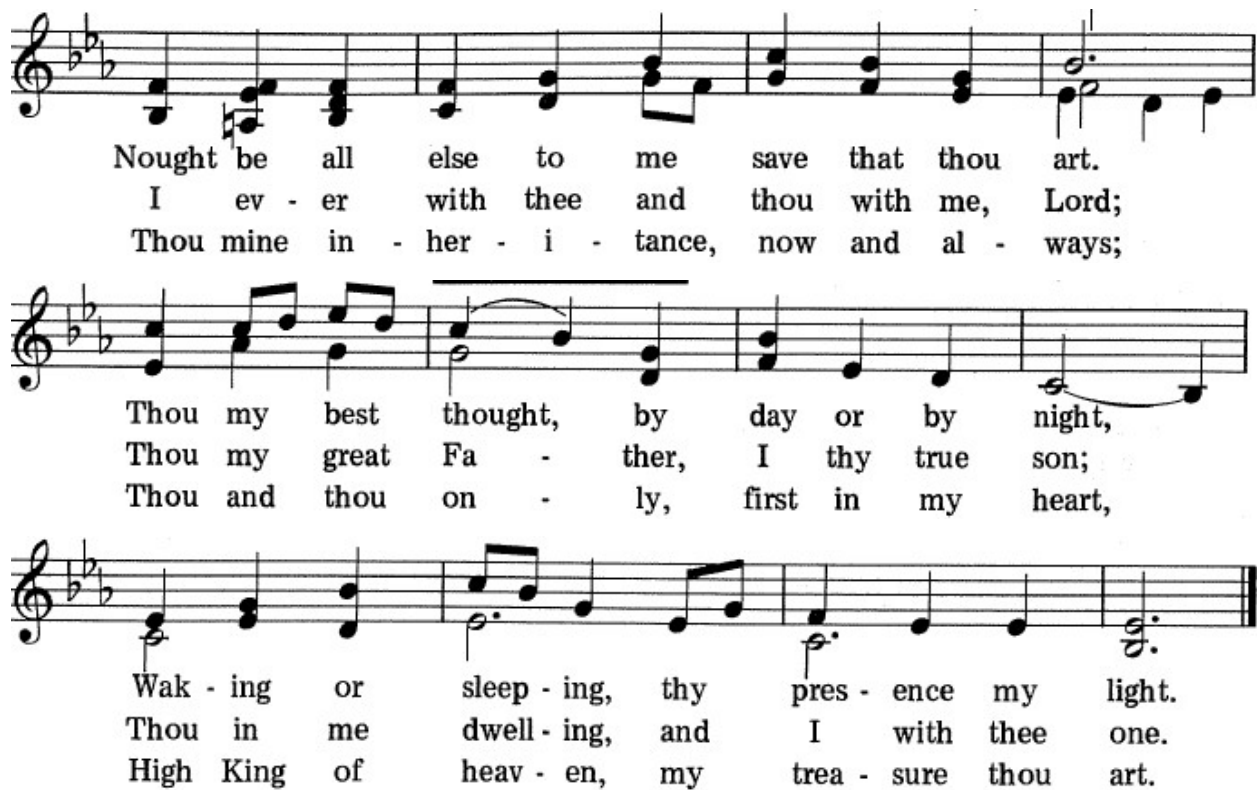
Pastoral Prayer

SERMON "REWRITE: Gifts" *Pastor Luke's neutral pulpit sermon given on November 20, 2016 at Grace United Church of Christ of Loyal Oak, Norton, Ohio.*

HYMN "Be Thou My Vision" (vs. 1 & 3)



1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2. Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3. Rich - es I heed not, nor man's emp - ty praise,



Nought be all else to me save that thou art.
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 Thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
 Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 Thou my great Fa - ther, I thy true son;
 Thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 Thou in me dwell - ing, and I with thee one.
 High King of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.

*Ancient Irish
 Tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1905
 Versified by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912*

SLANE 10.10.9.10.
*Traditional Irish Melody
 Harm. by David Evans, 1927*

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

In the upside-down world of the gospel, we measure our wealth not by what we have, but what we can give away. Let us give away generously, in this offering, to bless God's church, God's people, and God's creation. The morning offering will now be received in the baskets at either side of the sanctuary, online through uccmedina.org/give, or by how you will reach out to your neighbor to strengthen the ties that bind. Let us stand and sing our doxology.

*Doxology (Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;
 Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, triune, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

Holy One, we give thanks to you for this church's past and pray for your continued blessing and guidance. May this offering be a sign of our gratitude, a product of our prayer, and a sign of our work toward your justice. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. You do not need to be a member of the United Church of Christ to partake in the Holy Sacrament.

Invitation to the Table

The Words of Institution

Partaking of the elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

***BENEDICTION**

Leader: May we leave here more thankful than we came in.

People: **Thankful for towel warmers and the presence of those gathered here.**

Leader: Thankful for our existence,

People: **Give to us by our Creator God,**

Leader: Sustained by the Holy Spirit,

People: **And Redeemed by the life and teachings of Jesus our Christ.**

Leader: Go forth in the name of the Triune God, Ground and Source of our being, in love and service for this service has ended,

People: **And our service now begins. Amen!**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "God Be with You"**

**God be with you 'til we meet again; By His counsels guide uphold you;
With His sheep securely fold you; God be with you 'til we meet again.**

POSTLUDE "Postlude in D" – Lemmens/ed. JD Hazen

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

+++++

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Luke Lindon, Senior Pastor – email: luke@uccmedina.org

OFFICE STAFF

Cindy Korecky, Office Manager – email: office@uccmedina.org
Kelly Charnley, Financial Manager – email: financial@uccmedina.org

PROGRAM STAFF

Stacie Yates, Director of Christian Education
Nicole Rubino, Co-Director of Youth
Jim Kiser, Director of Music; Cathy Fafrak, Organist
Rebecca Rosen, Nursery Supervisor
Jennifer Vilimonovic, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool
Jack Sharpe, Maintenance; Jack Manhoff, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

September 6, 2020

**“WELCOMING, LOVING, SERVING, WHERE GOD HAS NO LIMITS.
MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY!”**

September 6, 2020 thru September 13, 2020

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun

8:15 am Chapel Worship (in the sanctuary)
9:00 am Gathering Worship
10:30 am Traditional Worship

Mon LABOR DAY – OFFICE CLOSED

Tues Zoom Worship Team Meeting

Wed 7:00 pm Zoom Discussion - “The Cross and the Lynching Tree”

Thurs

Fri 8:30 am Prayer Vigil
Remembering 9-11

Sat

Sun 8:15 am Chapel Worship (in the sanctuary)
9:00 am Gathering Worship
10:30 am Traditional Worship
12:00 pm **Drive Thru Blessing of the Backpacks & Mobile Devices!**

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY 9/10

On behalf of the Moderators (Julie Gilliland, Matt Yates & Maureen Walker) and everyone in the Medina UCC Congregational church family, we celebrate this third anniversary of Pastor Luke, Kate, Eve and Sam joining us. Pastor Luke’s official Installation was 9-10-17. Here is to many more years together, loving and serving God in the church on the square!

Worship Highlights: 8:15, 9:00 & 10:30 am

Scriptures: Luke 17:11-19

Sermon: Rewrite: “Gifts” - Rev. Luke Lindon
*Originally given as Luke’s “neutral pulpit”
sermon on 11/20/2016 at
Grace UCC of Loyal Oak in Norton, OH*

Flowers: The altar flowers are given by Jim Kiser in memory of Barb Kiser.

GREETERS NEEDED

As we re-open, the Evangelism Team could use your help in providing a socially-distant friendly face at the door when people enter before the 10:30 service. You can stand with your mask on behind the table by the downstairs entrance where we’ll have free masks available, or you can stand outside, waving “hi” and “welcome back.” Please review the available slots and sign up here: <http://tinyurl.com/uccgreeter>

RING THE CHURCH BELL FOR THE 19th YEAR ON 9-11

We will continue the tradition of praying on 9/11 that was started by Dave Edinger and continued on in his memory and the memory of that fateful day, by Dorothea, Linde and Jon Edinger. Our prayers start at 8:30 a.m. in the front entrance of the church. We will take turns ringing the bell at the time of each of the events, ending at 10:30 when the last tower fell. We will pray for the healing of our nation, the care of our first responders, and in remembrance of the victims and their families. Educational videos will be shown to help our younger members learn about the events of the day. Masks and distancing are required. It is our hope you will make time to observe this day with us.

GOSPEL GALLEY MEDITATIONS (GGM) SETS SAIL IN SEPTEMBER

Do you like to write inspirational, thought-provoking, emotion-filled, informational messages? If so, GGM is the place for you! GGM is looking for volunteers to write for upcoming months of the 2020-21 calendar year, having a 5th Sunday. The Sunday dates are: November 29, 2020, January 31, 2021, May 30, 2021 and October 31, 2021.

The phrase "The pen is mightier than the sword!" comes to mind. Interested? Please contact GGM Coordinator, Alice Metzloff via email at jamalsblugown@gmail.com. Details about writing for GGM, and a 2020-21 Writers Schedule Calendar is forthcoming.

ZOOM DISCUSSION ON "THE CROSS AND THE LYNCHING TREE"

A connection so obvious, we missed it. A past so painful, some deny it. Let's explore together as we read and discuss James Cone's seminal work, "The Cross and the Lynching Tree". The discussion groups will be held Wednesday nights at 7:00 pm via Zoom starting on September 9th then every 2nd and 4th Wednesday following for a total of 5 weeks. Please have the first chapter read by our first meeting!

Contact Ryan Collins by emailing at rpcollins1@gmail.com or text/call 330-321-7028, or go to <https://forms.gle/WW7zUavYjn8ttjmm6> to sign up.

HOSPICE VIRTUAL VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Are you looking for a way to help individuals in your community? Are you willing to engage with homebound patients and families by phone or by mail? Consider becoming a Hospice of the Western Reserve Volunteer. They have extended their virtual volunteer training sessions for new volunteers at least until the end of 2020. For more information, contact them at 216-255-9090 or fill out an online application at www.hospicewr.org/volunteers. Volunteers who complete virtual training will be able to provide in-person visits when it is deemed safe.

The Conversation on Diversity Book Club – Monday, 9/21/2020

Meetings on ZOOM - 3rd Mondays , 6:30 – 7:30pm

Have you noticed there are few opportunities to meet, talk and get to know people outside of our homogenous neighborhoods? There just aren't many things we black and white folk do together!

So, in the hope of providing a friendly meeting place where we can talk and learn more about our neighbors, the Conversation on Diversity Book Club has been created.

The fictional stories we read are intended to spark conversations about how racial and cultural imprints may influence our reactions to events.

The Book Club is a collaboration of the AAUW Diversity Project, the Medina Diversity Project and Leadership Medina County, with support from the Medina UCC.

For more information about The Conversation on Diversity Book Club, this month's book, "The Hate U Give" by Angie Thomas and to pick up one of the reserved library books, contact Jeannine Murray, 440-759-8806.

AUGUST FINANCIAL REPORT:

	August	YTD	Annual Budget	YTD as a % of Budget
Income:	\$26,316	\$225,270	\$358,252	62.9%
Expense:	\$24,707	\$223,291	\$372,383	60.0%
Net Income (Loss)				
	\$1,609	\$1,979	(\$14,131)	

- Income for August was lower than prior months, expenses remain under budget.
- We are beyond the halfway point for the year, please check to make sure your pledge payments are current. Call or email Kelly if you have questions or concerns.
- Thank you to everyone that has sent in donations via mail or on-line.
- Automatic Withdrawal Options are available for your weekly, monthly or even quarterly contributions; contact Kelly for a form to complete.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET THE PILGRIM MESSENGER EVERY WEEK?

We have now resumed our weekly Pilgrim Messenger mailing! We have about 60+ people that are on our mailing list already from prior to the COVID outbreak.

I know that some of you are still not comfortable coming to church and you do watch the live stream service, but if you would like for us to send you the Pilgrim Messenger by regular mail please let us know.

Also, if you already receive the mailing and wish to no longer be on the list, please let the office know.

We do email the Pilgrim Messenger to some folks as well. If you wish to be on that list, please let the office know.

We want to keep in touch with as many of you as we can and let you know some of what is happening in the life of the church! Hopefully someday soon we can all be together again in the building but until then, stay safe, stay healthy, and stay informed!

You may contact the office at 330-725-4559 or office@uccmedina.org

PASTOR'S CORNER

It has been awhile since I have written a pastor's corner. Now we finally have events on the calendar! It's a good feeling.

I submitted my proposal for my doctoral project. The idea is to adjust how council meets so we're looking toward the future and not reporting on the past. I will take a measurement of the council in how connected they feel to one another and our church, then run the idea, and in May take a second measurement and compare the results. If council feels more connected, then we have a new model to try out! If council feels less connected, then we can return to how we've been doing things for years. Either way, I get my doctorate! So I am happy to be moving on that front. If you'd like to know more, you shouldn't because I will speak for hours about the theology, theory, and project itself... But if you're up for it, you have been warned. 😊

Here are other upcoming events for September!

REWRITE SERIES

With so much coming at us in these unprecedented times, the Worship Team and I thought it might be a good time for something unprecedented. Something we have seen and heard before. Sometimes in scripture, we'll read a passage we've read a hundred times before and find something new in it. This series is entitled REWRITE and it is about that experience of revisiting and hearing something new. Old liturgies will reappear alongside our favorite songs. I'll rewrite my sermons and see how I would update them for our current context. As the preaching master Fred Craddock says, "If it's worth preaching once, it's worth preaching again. IF it's only worth preaching once, then it shouldn't have been preached at all."

Drive By Blessing of the Backpacks and Mobile Devices

In real time at the church, Sunday, 9/6/2020 from noon to 1 p.m.

Following our 10:30 a.m. service and livestream, Pastor Luke and Miss Stacie will be in the parking lot to hand out and bless your backpacks and mobile devices! Drive to the new entrance in the back and have your masks on and your windows down! We are excited to see you and bless your new school year! Doesn't matter what level of school, preschool through college.

The Cross and the Lynching Tree

On Zoom, starting Wednesday, 9/9/2020 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

A connection so obvious, we missed it. A past so painful, some deny it. Let's explore together as we read and discuss James Cone's seminal work "The Cross and the Lynching Tree." The discussion groups will be held ONLINE VIA ZOOM Wednesday nights at 7:00 p.m. starting on September 9th then every 2nd and 4th Wednesday following for a total of 5 weeks. Please have the first chapter read by our first meeting! Go to <https://forms.gle/WW7zUavYjn8ttjmm6> to sign up.

Ryan Collins will lead this discussion. I was assigned this book for two of my doctoral classes. The first time, I fought with it. The second time, I accepted and learned from it. It's an academic book that is very readable, but heavy. The theology is amazing and I am looking forward to our journey together.

September 11th Prayer Vigil

In real time at the church, Friday, 9/11/2020 from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

We will continue the tradition of praying on 9/11 that was started by Dave Edinger and continued on in his memory and the memory of that fateful day, by Dorothea, Linde and Jon Edinger. Our prayers start at 8:30 a.m. in the front entrance of the church. We will take turns ringing the bell at the time of each of the events, ending at 10:30 when the last tower fell. We will pray for the healing of our nation, the care of our first responders, and in remembrance of the victims and their families. Educational videos will be shown to help our younger members learn about the events of the day. Masks and distancing are required. I hope you will make time to observe this day with us.

Hello Church! I hope everyone has had a nice summer in spite of the Covid-19 pandemic. Yes, Covid is very much still with us and will be for quite a while. With that said, last Sunday was August 30th. The Summer Special Music was called “Who Cares?”. This song was composed by John W. Peterson in 1960. The words have a real pertinent message. The verses and chorus are as follows:

“Who cares when the days are dreary? Who cares when I’m tired and weary? Jesus my Lord and Savior cares. Who cares when I’m sad and lonely? Who cares when I’ve trouble only? Jesus my Lord and Savior cares. There’s not a dearer friend to me...He’ll lead me on till His Face I see. Who cares when my heart is aching? Who cares when it’s nearly breaking? Jesus my Lord and Savior cares.”

“Who cares when my friends forsake me? Who cares when the storms o’ertake me? Jesus my Lord and Savior cares. Who cares when my hopes all crumble? Who cares when I fall and stumble? Jesus my Lord and Savior cares. There’s not a dearer friend to me...He’ll lead me on till His Face I see. Who cares when I’m weak and ailing? Who cares when my strength is failing? Jesus my Lord and Savior cares.”

How appropriate are these words for this day, this year...in light of the current happenings we are experiencing! When we are asking, “Is God out there? Who cares? Why should we care for others?” Take to heart the message during these troubled times. The answers are:

“YES, GOD IS HERE! JESUS CARES! WE CARE FOR OTHERS BECAUSE JESUS/GOD CARES FOR US, LOVES US 24/7/365 not just on special holy days!” In Christ there is no...east/west/north/south, race/creed/color, gender, or any other dividing issue we choose to have! THERE IS NOTHING THAT SEPARATES US, HIS PEOPLE...HIS CHILDREN...ALL ARE EQUAL IN GOD’S EYES.

So...GO...CARE...each day, each hour, each minute!

Serve Empathize Pray Trust Embrace (with social distance) Merciful Blessed Endure Rejoice

The deadline for submission of articles for NEXT Sunday’s *Messenger* is this Sunday at 11:30 am

Please submit articles to the church office at office@uccmedina.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm MONDAY THRU FRIDAY

Exodus 12:1-14

Remember, Restore, Renew

On this day we recall the beginning of Passover. Passover is celebrated by our Jewish brothers and sisters as a reminder of freedom from slavery. Pressed into hard toil, the people of Israel banded together, and so were able to escape to a new and more equitable life. Although this is not the season of Passover, it is appropriate to read this scripture on the secular weekend of Labor Day, as we recall the hard work by labor unions to secure freedom for workers of all kinds.

In the United Church of Christ, we rejoice that "each worker - judge or janitor, salesclerk or scientist, mother or millionaire CEO - is equal in the sight of God. Each person's work, done with integrity, is a contribution to society and has value and dignity. But the world doesn't always see it this way.

Workers are dependent on their employer, but employers are much less dependent on any particular worker. This unequal power relationship can lead to problems in the workplace. A common way that workers have responded is to join a labor union. Unions are one of the very best ways for workers to bring greater justice to the workplace. The right of workers to form or join unions is so important and fundamental that it is an internationally-recognized human right." (https://www.ucc.org/justice_worker-justice_unions)

The right of people to gather together and speak out against workplace injustice is part of a long tradition in our faith story. As we recreate or relax on Labor Day Monday, it is also an opportunity to give thanks for the United Church of Christ's commitment to the principles of fairness and equity in the workplace. This Labor Day, take a moment to pray using these or other words.

Dear God, On this Labor Day, we pause to thank you for the opportunity for satisfying work, and for the pleasure of rest from our labors. Be with all those, we pray, who work under unjust conditions. Be with all who advocate for those who work in such conditions. And be with us, we pray, as we strive along with you for a world in which every person is afforded decency, justice and fair treatment. In your name, Amen.